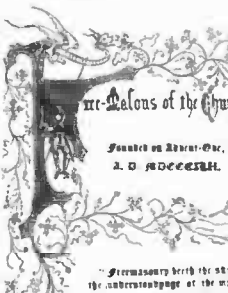

"Freemasonry berth the shylle of nature, the conformenonpage of the wrighte that ys berrepanct: and its sondrye merchpages, counterfeightes, and shylle of freemapons, or wrighters and interpages, and the true manere of facmaponge al thynges for manures use; drabyer, dwellpages, and buylthynges of all kyndes, and al other thynges that make goode to manne."

"Masonnes haberthe allmyghs. ye aberpeche tyme, from tyme to tyme, communycatethe to manlynelle sorte of her secretenes as geaer-allythe wrighte be usefulle: they haberthe hoped bache sorte allesme as shulde be parmanalle pfe they coulde pan cuplle baanders. Masonnes lone either other wyghtyne and ye may nor abbertmist be: for gode meane and true. Kenapage either other to be such, berth always lone the more as they be more good."—*From a Manuscript in the handwriting of King Henry the Sixth.*

An adjournment of the 16th, or "Our Lady's Chapter," was held on Saturday evening, the 30th March, at which was a very numerous attendance. The Rev. George Pocock, B.C.L., was called to the chair, and though many were absent, attending the *soirée* of the Marquis of Northampton, President of the Royal Society, we recognized many well-known to us, among whom were the Rev. T. M. Fallow; Messrs. Stothard; Geo. Aitchison, Sen.; Geo. Aitchison, Jun.; V. Bartholomew; W. P. Griffith, F.S.A.; Papineau, Sen.; Papineau, Jun.; Moon, Barr, Thomas, Archer, Perry, East, C. H. Smith, T. Deighton, Nunn, W. G. Rogers, W. H. Rogers, Finn, Staples, A. Bartholomew, F.S.A.; G. P. Pocock, Fisk, Houle, Cull, Winterbottom, Springbett, and many others.

The tables were spread with the effects of the college, and the rooms were hung with various architectural subjects, among which were rubbings from ancient monumental brasses, and two from very beautiful modern ones by Mr. Archer.

Mr. William Gibbs Rogers exhibited two boldly and exquisitely carved specimens of fruit and flowers, previously to their being placed in the School of Design at Edinburgh; and an elaborately chased "*benitier*" of bronze, with, rising from the bowl of it, a figure of our Saviour, an Italian work of the early part of the 17th century; also a richly-carved royal trophy in the style of Grinling Gibbons, 5 feet high and 4 feet wide, and of such extraordinary relief as to project nearly a foot, consisting of the point lace neckcloth, of Charles the First, elegantly grouped with the sword and sceptre of England, pearls, crowns, and other insignia of royalty; flowers and musical instruments also forming an important feature in the composition, and on each side pendent groups of dead game, of remarkable lightness and fidelity. There were also on the table fourteen groups of figures of mediæval German carving, forming a series of the "Via Crucis," and some specimens of German Gothic tracery with inter-penetrating mouldings, and five large ancient alms-dishes of laton, furnished by Mr. W. G. Rogers.

Mr. A. Bartholomew exhibited, for future explanation, a scientific catenary composed of spring weighing machines, by which may be indicated the strain on every suspension link, and also the effects of pressure on different parts of arches, whether suspended or inverted, [illegible] ment, made of the vertebræ of four ostrils, by which the curvatures of the arch ribs of groined vaults and buttress-steeples (like St. Dunstan's-in-the-East) may be truly formed, according to the weight of the boss, spire, or other surmounting mass.

Mr. G. Aitchison, jun., presented a rubbing from an ancient monumental brass in Alhallow's Barking Church, near the Tower of London.

William Thomas, Esq., of Baker-street, Portman-square, was elected Professor of Fresco Painting to the College.

The election of new members, and the other ordinary business of the meeting being concluded, the special business of the evening was proceeded with, when Mr. Alfred Bartholomew, the secretary, delivered from a beautiful carved oak "Letterne," the property of Mr. W. G. Rogers, around which appears in raised letters, the inscription, "Kerrier with Kerkerne the Engrafted Eikorn."

THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

THE SIXTEENTH CHAPTER of this institution being adjourned to this evening, for the special purpose of our members hearing an inaugural statement of the actual condition and prospects of the foundation of the College, it has devolved on me, *Gentlemen*, to address you upon a subject so interesting to our mutual profession and bonded union; one which we have had great trust, and still have, will become important to ourselves, and to all persons whose interest is concerned in the right conduct of practical architecture: and, indeed, who is there not so concerned? for even fools who have holes, and birds who have nests, possess some knowledge of architecture; and have not many species of that which we esteem the lower animal kingdom unerring rules of architectural beauty and construction implanted by Almighty and Omniscient Wisdom, from which we may well copy, whether for the high branch of abstract taste—or the still higher one of fitness—*that* exact adaptation to purpose, that economy of material, and production of the greatest strength; to which few human architects have ever arrived, and perhaps none?

And here I would make the customary deferential excuses and lamentations, that one more competent was not appointed to now address you; but instead of doing so, I shall rather thank you for the high honour which I have received by being chosen to deliver to an audience so numerous, so respectable, so scientific, the inaugural address of the College, and I shall bring before you matter which, if it sparkle not, shall contain and yield some reflection of the sterling integrity of purpose, the pathos of architectural zeal, with which the spirits of the respected friends around me are radiant.

In taking the portion of time which we have, to found deliberately all our laws, and in avoiding all precipitancy, we have insured the future well-being of the College.

Let the impatient remember, that though Nelson was an hour or more before he returned a shot, resolving, though attacked, to order all well for a victory before he entered into vindictive conflict, yet did conquer through sure well-set deliberation: wherens, had he entered into combat unprepared, he would himself, though so often before a conqueror, have left conquered.

Gentlemen.—Sixteen months ago our friends met here, and this college was founded: sixteen months ago we were bonded together into a fraternity, which, I have confident hope, will long survive the mural fabrications of even its discreetest members; and trust when the statically-poised dome is rent, and pulverized, and fallen,—when the masonic column lies prostrate and shivered,—when the arch, thrown out of equilibrium, is a fractured and severed ruin,—*the College* of the Freemasons of the Church, poised upon truthfulness, erected upon science, and depending upon the equilibrium of nature's philosophy, and through orthodox practice fused and run through every of its corporate members, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot, shall flourish, and as old Time grows more and more hoary, still be green, and spreading more widely, and bearing more fruitage, and cheering more the heart of fabricating science, and shedding the cheerfulness of its countenance into all lands, wherever Anglo-Saxon perseverance shall courier Anglian merchandise, and literature, and civilization.

I hardly think it possible that in an assembly informed so well, knowing so intimately where have lain the corruptions, the grievances, and the disorders of our art, and which knows so well what have been our efforts, what are our views and intentions, one can be found to doubt the persevering truth of that which I have stated.

If, in times most generally accounted barbarous, and of little general science, existed such a community in our art—that from Russia to Ireland, from [illegible] field, sprang up, and throve, and year by year grew with the same family impress, little altered by climate,—why should we doubt, when literature has gone out into all lands like the solar rays from which nothing under heaven is hidden,—when science, in its expanse unmeasured, has stretched from the palace to the cottage, from the garden to the desert, from the rivulet to the ocean, from the quiet wild-flower-grown byway, to the tornadoed railroad,—why should we doubt, with these advantages which this age (call it an iron one if you please) alone has possessed, why should we doubt such should occur?

Possibly some member's friend, with whose introduction we may be this evening honoured, may think that in meeting here for the bearing of an inaugural address sixteen months after the actual foundation of the institution, that sixteen months or nearly so have been expended idly. Not so. Sixteen months of collegiate industry have been passed; and within those sixteen months, by knitting together a strong and fervent *esprit de corps*, by founding good laws, and ordering every thing on firm, just, and extended principles, more has been effected than all other architectural societies have performed from their first existence.

The constant endeavour with our sturdy-hearted members has been to plan, to form, to build, and to solidify every thing preliminary, in such wise, that no future subversion shall possibly take place; that the good intentions of our founders may (come what else may) be subverted: that all may, with the greatest minuteness, be so provided for the governance of the College, that no ill-informed or mischievous, or egotistical, or quarrelsome mar-plot, shall hereafter prevail against the sober, and proper, and wise, and fundamental principles of the institution. If, then, *Gentlemen*, sixteen months have been consumed in the perfecting of such design in its most minute details, I trust those sixteen months will not be accounted as lost. In fact, I may say, that there are certain things to which this foundation has set its hand which no other society has even mentally weighed, much less had the boldness to put into operation.

As a few strangers are among us, I may be excused for entering into some details which are to all others of my auditors sufficiently well known.

In this college we are of five grades,—architectural-fellows, architectural-associates, clerical-fellows, lay-fellows, and honorary-fellows. This subdivision, or rather union of classes, has been broached for the purpose of bringing under one comprehensive union, the various persons who operate either in architectural fabrication or towards it.

In calling for contributions, the strictest economy has been exercised, and yet not without the laying down of some regals of splendour.

The beautiful illuminated vellum diplomas which lie on the table before you, designed by our talented member and illuminator, Mr. W. H. Rogers, perhaps vie in beauty with the admission documents of all other societies; and by examining the laws of the College, it will be found that while rigid economy has been consulted, something of splendour has been worked out.

In fixing the amounts of contributions, the greatest consideration has been exercised in settling them at 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* per annum, or 12 guineas for life, from architectural fellows, and at 1*l.* 1*s.*, or 7 guineas for life, from all other contributing members, the extremes of meanness and of wasteful profusion have been avoided: these contributions being within the means of the many, and beyond the means of only the few.

We have laid down very orderly rules for our chapters and other meetings, for our members' literary and graphic contributions, for our council, for the ultimate obtaining of a charter, and for the appointment of professors and officers to the College.

One part of the mechanism of the institution I think calculated to cause it to work as it should, is the description of officers denominated *Correspondent-Delineators*, whose duty consists in transmitting to us draughts and descriptions of architectural subjects at a distance from the metropolis, and thus enable us to collect, from local eye-witnesses, every information which we may require from a distance: this will in some manner re-create the wonderful community of the old freemasonry, which seemed like electricity to pervade all lands and all architecture. All competent persons who may desire to join our fraternity will be received among us in this capacity, without any contribution further than their correspondence and delineations, and will have granted to them the St. George illuminated diploma.

By the appointing of so numerous a body of scientific gentlemen, each in his office, we doubt not that we shall obtain the best scientific information upon the various subjects connected with practical architecture; and by this subdivision (for we have small faith in the man of Pantechnicon knowledge [illegible] nearly approaching to Pantechnicon ignorance), we hope that every thing will be done well: for even in the Russian